

C & O CANAL - BRUNSWICK TO HARPERS FERRY

The C & O Canal is one of my most favorite places in Frederick County to walk. No matter what the weather, this is an interesting trail. We hiked this portion of the trail right after a snowfall. We spent most of the time looking at animal tracks and trying to figure out what animal made them.

Start this hike by parking your car in the parking lot under Md. Route 17 highway bridge. This parking lot is found by crossing the railroad tracks at the MARC train station in Brunswick, then turn right to cross the vehicle bridge over Lock 30. You can either walk 5 miles round trip by stopping at the Frederick/Washington County line or walk 11 miles round trip by going all the way to Harpers Ferry.

In the spring, this section is gorgeous. There are Dutchman's Britches and Virginia Bluebells blooming all along the trail. In this section, part of the canal is watered and in the summer there are turtles sitting everywhere on logs. I spotted a Red-bellied Woodpecker defending its nest. I have seen baby Wood Ducks and a Belted Kingfisher. And you will also spot "Through Hikers" on this section as the towpath is part of the 2,050 mile Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia.

